



Sarah McMeechan

Call: 2000

She is reliable and always ready to argue the case.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2026

✉ smcmeechan@newcourtchambers.com ☎ 020 7583 5123

Sarah McMeechan is a specialist family practitioner, with particular expertise in both public and private law children work (including adoption proceedings).

Since being called to the Bar in 2000, she has gained extensive experience through her regular representation of Local Authorities, parents, children (including competent children), family members and intervening third parties, at all levels of the family court, including the Court of Appeal, both as a leading junior and junior.

She is regularly instructed in evidentially complex public law children cases, often involving concurrent criminal investigations and serious allegations of inflicted injury to children (including life threatening injuries); sexual abuse; forced marriage and honor based violence and where deprivation of liberty orders are required.

Sarah also has expertise in representing parents and children in private law children cases involving complex and intractable child arrangement disputes which include allegations of parental alienation and physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Sarah has experience in international abduction cases to and from Hague Convention countries.

Sarah is fully qualified to undertake work on a **Direct Access** basis.

Accreditations



Languages

- Italian (basic)

Qualifications

- LLB (Hons)

Professional Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- The Honourable Society of Inner Temple

Publications

- London Borough of Y v M & Ors [2025] EWCA 232
- KM & Anor (Finding of Fact: Parental Alienation) [2024] EWCA 260
- T & Others (Children: Adequacy of Reasons) [2023] EWCA Civ 757
- Re W-Z (Children: Welfare Decision) [2023] EWFC 94
- Re X-Z (Children: Fact-Finding) [2022] EWFC 193

- K and L (Children: Care Proceedings) Part 2 [2022] EWFC B10
- K and L (Children : Care Proceedings) [2021] EWFC B39

Privacy Policy

Data Controller

I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a Data Controller for the personal data that I hold and process as a barrister. My registered address is New Court Chambers, Temple, London EC4Y 9BE and my registration number is Z2159573.

Data Collection

All of the information that I hold about you is provided to or gathered by us in the course of your case and/or proceedings. Your solicitor and I will tell you why we need the information and how we will use it.

Lawful Basis for processing your information

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requires all organisations / individuals that process personal data to have a Lawful Basis for doing so. The Lawful Bases identified in the GDPR are:

- Consent of the data subject
- Performance of a contract with the data subject or to take steps to enter into a contract
- Compliance with a legal obligation
- To protect the vital interests of a data subject or another person
- Performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.
- The legitimate interests of ourselves, or a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests, rights or freedoms of the data subject.

Examples of legitimate interests include:

- Where the data subject is a client or in the service of the controller;
- Transmission within a group of undertakings for internal administrative purposes;

- Processing necessary to ensure network and information security, including preventing unauthorised access;
- Processing for direct marketing purposes, or to prevent fraud; and
- Reporting possible criminal acts or threats to public security.

My Lawful Basis is:

- Your consent
- To protect the vital interests of a data subject or another person
- Compliance with a legal obligation

My Legitimate Interest is:

- You are a client
- The processing is necessary for administering justice
- The processing is necessary in relation to legal proceedings, for obtaining legal advice, or otherwise for establishing, exercising or defending legal rights

I use your information to:

- Provide legal advice and representation
- Communicate with you about services, updates and events

I do not use automated decision-making in the processing of your personal data.

I collect and process both personal data and special categories of personal data as defined in the GDPR. This includes:

Client data

- Name;
- Email;
- Phone number;
- Address;
- Date of birth;
- Location details;
- Medical history and current medical health;
- Criminal convictions;
- Social work involvement;
- Ethnic origin;

- Religious background.

I may share your personal data with:

- Instructing solicitors;
- Pupil or mini pupil, under my training;
- Opposing Counsel, for the purposes of resolving the case;
- My Chambers management and staff who provide administrative services;
- My regulator or legal advisors in the event of a dispute or other legal matter;
- Law enforcement officials, government authorities, or other third parties to meet our legal obligations;
- Any other party where I ask you and your consent to the sharing.

Transfers to third countries and international organisations

I store my case files on Dropbox which is a cloud hosted environment based in the US.

Dropbox relies upon a variety of legal mechanisms for its international transfer of personal data from the EU to the United States. Dropbox is certified under the EU-US and Swiss US Privacy Shield Programs regarding the collection, use and retention of personal data and its transfer from the EU and Switzerland to the United States.

In addition to the Privacy Shield, Dropbox also provides strong contractual guarantees around the privacy of its services and relies on the EU Model Contract Clauses to cover its international transfers of data.

I am satisfied that such transferred data is fully protected and safeguarded as required by the General Data Protection Regulation.

Retention of data

I retain your personal data while you remain a client unless you ask me to delete it.

My Retention and Disposal Policy (copy available on request) details how long I hold data for and how I dispose of it when it no longer needs to be held. I will delete or anonymise your information at your request unless:

- There is an unresolved issue, such as claim or dispute;
- I am legally required to; or
- There are overriding legitimate business interests, including but not limited to fraud prevention and protecting customers' safety and security.

Your Rights

The General Data Protection Regulation gives you specific rights around your personal data. For example, you have to be informed about the information I hold and what I use it for, you can ask for a copy of the personal information I hold about you, you can ask us to correct any inaccuracies with the personal data I hold, you can ask us to stop sending you direct mail, or emails, or in some circumstances ask us to stop processing your details. Finally, if I do something irregular or improper with your personal data you can seek compensation for any distress you are caused or loss you have incurred. You can find out more information from the ICO's website https://ico.org.uk/for_the_public/personal_information and this is the organisation that you can complain to if you are unhappy with how I dealt with you.

Accessing and Correcting Your Information

You may request access to, correction of, or a copy of your information by contacting me at smcmeechan@newcourtchambers.com.

I will occasionally update my Privacy Notice. When I make significant changes, I will notify you of these by email. I will also publish the updated Notice on my website profile.

Directories

"She is reliable and always ready to argue the case."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Sarah McMeechan has a good manner with clients."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Sarah is a fantastic advocate, who remains calm and achieves her objectives on each occasion."

Chambers & Partners 2026

"Sarah is professional and personable, with a steely but fair demeanour in court."

Legal 500 2026

"Her knowledge is impressive and she absolutely covers all bases."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Sarah is extremely helpful and puts one at ease."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"She works very hard on each and every one of her matters and gets great outcomes."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"She is a brilliant and amazing barrister to instruct for anything complex as her preparation and legal knowledge is fantastic."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"Sarah is an exceptional advocates, conscientious and skilful in cross-examination."

Legal 500 2025

"A very hard-working and conscientious lawyer, who picked up the case late on before a fact-finding hearing and had a difficult, demanding client. She showed an impressive ability to get on top of the papers at speed and fight hard for her client, despite that client's best efforts to undermine her."

Chambers & Partners 2024

"Quietly powerful in all she does."

Chambers & Partners 2024